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“The Story of the Siege and Fall of The Alamo.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES.

A RÉSUMÉ.

By

ADINA DE ZAVALA.

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, 1911.



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DEDICATED
TO MY MOTHER, MY FRIENDS, AND ALL
TRUE PATRIOTS.



NO. 1
Please do not write in this
book or turn down the pages



THE FORTIFIED BUILDING.

The Main Building of The Alamo, Where the Heroes Died.
As it looked originally.

THE CHURCH IN THE ALAMO.

Towers, Dome and Arched Roof fell in previous to or in 1762,
never restored or rebuilt.

THE long two-story stone building was the main building of the Fort and the most strongly fortified in 1836, and the building into which the men of the Alamo retreated for their last stand. It is the building which contained the hospital in its south end, upstairs, where Bowie was killed. This building divested of its arcaded galleries is still standing on the east side of the upper end of Alamo Plaza in San Antonio, Texas, and is the building a syndicate wishes to destroy, and is the building they refer to as

the "Hugo, Schmeltzer" "eye-sore," etc. The reason they wish it destroyed, and are denying its historic value, is because they own or have an interest in a property or proposed business, back of this main building of The Alamo, and if this Alamo building were out of the way it would place their property with a long frontage on Alamo Plaza. This property has now no Alamo Plaza frontage, being *behind* The Alamo. Legislation in the interest of these "interests" is now sought, it is said. Help Save The Alamo! This fortified old "long bar-rack" where the heroes died!

HYMN OF THE ALAMO.

By REUBEN M. POTTER.

Rise! man the wall! Our clarion blast
Now sounds its final reveille;
This dawning morn shall be the last
Our fated band shall ever see.
To Life—but not to hope—farewell!
Yon trumpets clang, and clarion's peal,
And storming shout, and clash of steel
Is ours, but not our country's knell!
Welcome the Spartan death!
'Tis no despairing strife.
We fall! we die! but our expiring breath
Is Freedom's birth of life.

Here, on this new Thermopylae,
Our monument shall tower on high,
And "ALAMO" hereafter be
On bloodier fields the battle-cry!
Thus Travis from the ramparts cried.
And, when his warriors saw the foe

Like whelming billows move below,
At once each dauntless heart replied:
Welcome the Spartan death!
'Tis no despairing strife.
We fall! but our expiring breath
Is Freedom's dawn of life.

They come! Like autumn's leaves they fall,
Yet hordes on hordes still onward rush;
With gory tramp they mount the wall,
Till numbers the defenders crush,
And earth drank blood like copious rain!
Well may the ruffians quake to tell
How Travis and his hundred fell
Amid a thousand foemen slain!
They died the Spartan's death,
But not in hopeless strife;
Like brothers died, and their expiring breath
Was Freedom's dawn of life.

"THE LONG BARRACK"

(The Main Building of the Alamo)

STILL STANDS.

The buildings in the Alamo Fort sustained very little or no serious damage from the guns of the enemy. Santa Anna had no regular siege train and only light field pieces and howitzers, as Potter and other historians note, and Potter distinctly states that when he viewed the buildings in 1841—five years after the Fall of the Alamo—he was astonished that they had withstood the guns so well.* Again, in San Antonio, in 1860, Potter, writing on The Alamo, makes the statement that the buildings still standing were, "the chapel," "the long barrack," "the latter a stone house of two stories" and the "low barrack" "a one-story stone barrack 114 feet long and 17 wide, having in the center a porte-cochère, which passed through it under the roof." This "low barrack" was sold to the City of San Antonio in 1871, and torn away in order to open the Alamo plaza or rather to unite the Plaza de Valero below, to the Alamo Plaza above under the latter name. The

*See also Raines' Life of Santa Anna, also Kendall's Santa Fe Expedition and other histories.

deed of conveyance contains the following: "And it being understood that the property hereby conveyed is so conveyed on condition that it shall be dedicated to the public use as an open space and be made a part of and one with the plazas above and below it, now known as the Alamo Plaza and the Plaza de Valero." About the year 1849, Major Babbitt, acting Quartermaster of the Eighth Military Department, took possession of the Alamo buildings in the name of the U. S. Government to use them as a Quartermaster's Depot.** A plat of the Fort was made in 1846 under order of the U. S. Government and still exists.*** Major Babbitt found the Church building "choked with debris, a conglomeration of stones, mortar and dirt,"** just as it was when the dome, towers and arched roof fell in about 1762, with the disintegration and injury of nearly one hundred years added. November 15, 1878, in cleaning out the de-

**Corner's San Antonio de Bexar.

***See plat of Alamo drawn by Edward Everett, in U. S. government employ and embodied by Capt. Hughes in his report in '46.

bris, when they were nearly reaching the original level of the old Church, a beautifully carved baptismal font was brought to light.* In 1883, the Church in the Alamo Fort was purchased by the State of Texas, the people of San Antonio still expecting that the more ancient two-story stone building would be dedicated to the use of the public by gift, as was the well known intention of Mr. Grenet. The deed from the Catholic church conveying the Alamo Church to the State of Texas reads as follows in reciting its metes and bounds: "Beginning for S. W. corner at a point 86 feet 6½ inches S. 79 1-3 E. from the present S. W. corner of the OLD STONE BUILDING." It was there in 1883, when this deed was made. That it still stands, and has remained there from the beginning is fully proven from history, by drawings, by maps and plats made at various times all adown the years, and from the testimony of old citizens.**

*Corner's San Antonio de Bexar.

**For plat by authority of U. S. Government see "Memoirs of an Expedition under the command of Brig. Gen'l. Wool, U. S. A." 1846, published also in government report by Capt. Hughes. Also see Yoakum, Brown, Thrall, Bancroft, Baker—Texas Scrap Book, Raines' Life of Santa Anna, and in fact every History of Texas entering at length into the detail of the Fall of the Alamo, all show or describe this building as still in existence and little damaged. Also see manuscripts

No one thought of denying such a well known fact until a syndicate wanted to corner on the Alamo Plaza by the Post Office, and found the Alamo in their way. Drawings of the Church and the two-story main fortified building of the Alamo Fortress were made after the Fall of the Alamo, by an army officer, after the Battle of San Jacinto, showing the two-story stone building with its ruined tower at the southwest corner. Drawings and plats made in '37, '38, '41, '45 and '46, and on down to the present still exist. Undeniable proof is present in our histories and archives that the old two-story stone building where our heroes died still stands and is the building referred to by the syndicate and "interested" parties as the "Hugo-Schmeltzer building," and on the plea of "Repairing the Alamo" and "Beautifying the city," they seek to destroy and tear down and desecrate the building wherein the martyrs of the Alamo so heroically sacrificed their lives that Texas might be free. In the upper story of this ancient fortress, styled by these would-be destroyers, "the Hugo, Schmeltzer building," in its south side, was the hospital where

in the custody of the author of this Résumé of the Story of the Siege and Fall of the Alamo which the author hopes to give to the public in printed form in the fuller account of "The Siege and Fall of the Alamo" now in course of preparation.

Bowie met his death.* The Church of San Antonio de Valero, now styled the Church of the Alamo dates from 1744, but the two-story stone building is much older, dating, it is thought, from 1718. Are we to believe the testimony of historians and disinterested citizens, and drawings and plats made from the beginning of the history of San Antonio to the present, or are we to accept without question the statements of these

*In Vol. I., Page 576, of Brown's History of Texas, referring to Bowie, is the following: "When the attack came on, (Bowie) was confined to his bed in the upper room of the barrack marked (P.) He was there killed on his couch, but not without resistance; for he is said to have shot down with his pistols one or more of the enemy as they entered the chamber." Again on page 581 is found: "Col. Fulton says: 'About the first of August, 1837, I first visited the Alamo, in com-

"interested" property owners and syndicates?

Help Save the Alamo, and merit the gratitude of all Texans.

Act quickly, protest and appeal to the Governor who has the question now before him and to your Senators and other representatives in the Texas State Legislature.

ADINA DE ZAVALA.

San Antonio, Texas.

August 21, 1911.

pany with Judge Baker, then Chief Justice of Bexar County, who directed my attention to the room I have marked (B) as the one occupied by Bowie, being on his sick bed, when bayoneted by Santa Anna's minions.'" The room marked (P) in the first reference above, and (B) in the last, is the hospital room in the upper story of the main building of the Alamo and is marked (10) in plat accompanying this.

See nearly all Texas histories.

PLAT of the ALAMO
 OF
MISSION SAN ANTONIO de VALERO

SCALE



Sec. D.

Acquia of the Alamo proper

Sec. E.

Large Bean Tree

Houston St.

E. Houston St.

(Formerly Paso St.)

Plaza of the Fort

Will.

Street of Church

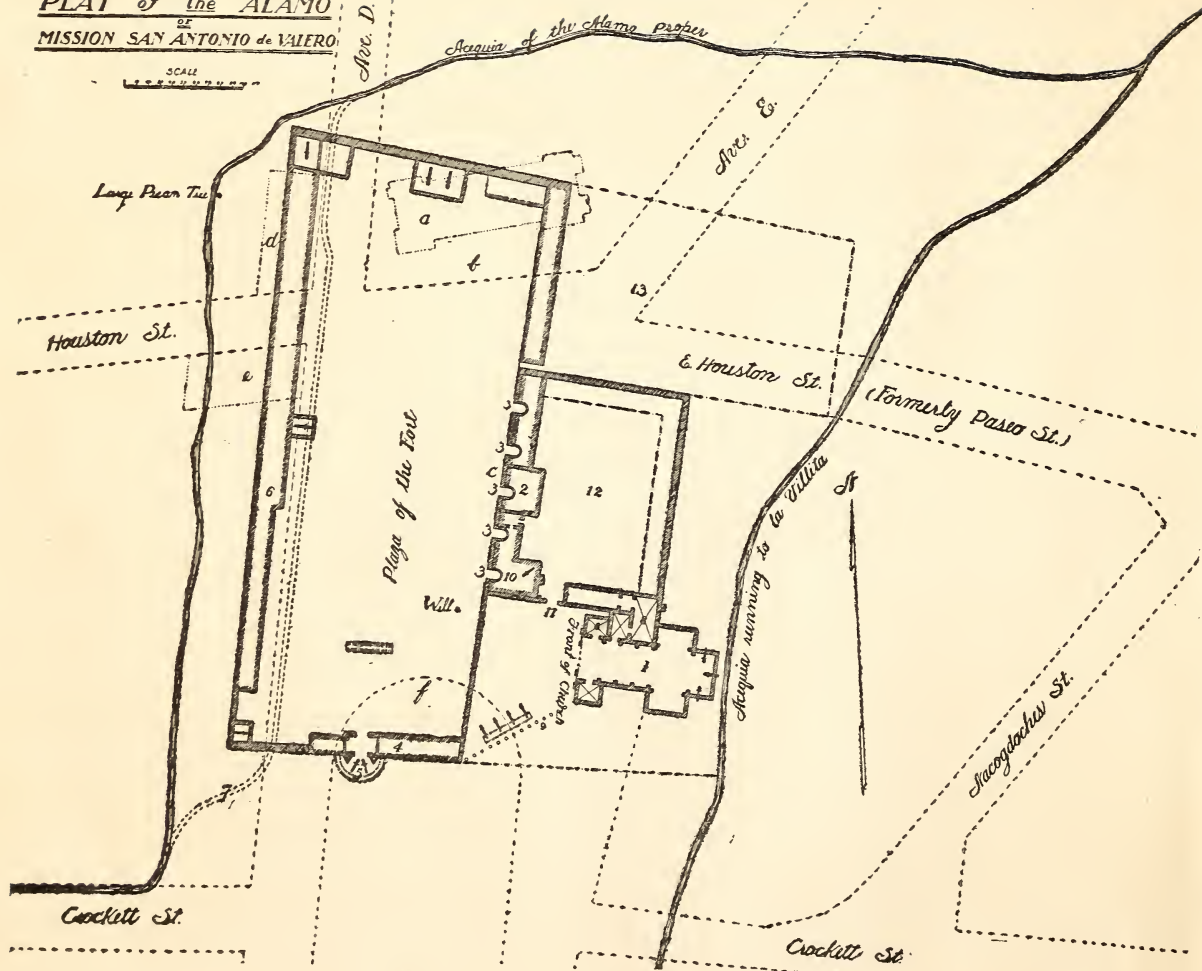
Acquia running to the Villita

St.

Macoyachas St.

Crockett St.

Crockett St.



THE ALAMO.

(Originally named Mission San Antonio de Valero, and founded as Industrial School and Mission-Fortress.)

OLD REFERENCES:

1836.

1. The Church in The Alamo. Corner-stone laid May 8, 1744. Towers, dome, and arched roof fell in previous to or in 1762, and debris remained untouched until about 1850, when much was removed by Major Babbitt, U. S. A.* in the years he had possession.
2. The fortified main building of the Fort referred to by Potter as "the long barrack, a two-story stone building." It had, originally, arcaded galleries above and below.**
3. Doors in (2) having within a semi-circular parapet composed of a double curtain of hides upheld by stakes and filled in with rammed earth. Loop-holed.
4. Old Galera or "Prison" also referred to by Potter as the "low barrack."
5. Porte-cochere or entrance to Fort.
6. Stone walls and rooms surrounding Fort.
7. Acequia (ditch) running through Plaza.
8. Rooms used as powder magazines during siege.
9. Cedar post stockade and earthworks in use during siege.

*Corner's San Antonio de Bexar.

**Documentos para la Historia de la Provincia de Texas, (MS.) Mexican Archives. Bolton and Barker, With the Makers of Texas.

10. Hospital upstairs in main Alamo building where Bowie was killed and above which, in tower room, a small gun did fine execution. At this corner the flag of the Alamo floated.
11. Entrance to the court yard and rooms surrounding it. Originally the principal entrance to main building.
12. Court yard or Patio of the main building where some of the heroes were burned. Originally, this court yard was surrounded on the four sides by rooms.
13. A second court yard existing at an earlier period.
14. Old well that was dug or reopened during siege.

A ditch was dug connecting the acequias on the south of the Fort, thus completely surrounding the Alamo by canals. Note cannon and batteries.

NEW REFERENCES:

1911.

- a. Federal building, Federal court house and Post Office.
- b. Government lot.
- c. Front of the Main building of the old Alamo Fort. The Alamo proper, where the heroes died, which together with the Church (1) is all that is left of the original Alamo.
- d. Gibbs Building.
- e. McGraw building.
- f. Circular curb of Plaza Garden.

The Story of the Siege and Fall of The Alamo.

The Alamo was built for a large industrial school to teach, civilize, and Christianize the Indians of the locality. It was a sort of walled city or fortress and was composed of several buildings with their courts or patios, and a long rectangular plaza within this walled area and covered about three acres of ground. All the buildings, and the ten-foot wall which surrounded the entire Alamo Fortress were of stone. The high wall was needed as a protection against the savage Indians. In this industrial school the Indians were taught to weave coarse cloths, embroidered cotton shawls, blankets, and make other needed materials. They were also taught every trade or occupation that was useful to them at the period, as husbandry, blacksmithing, carpentry, stock-raising, architecture or house construction.* They were taught too, to read and speak Spanish, to write, sing, sew, embroider, draw, carve and paint, each according to his talents. Even their political education was not neglected, they being taught civic government. A governor and

*Documentos para la Historia de la Provincia de Texas (MS.) Mexican Archives. Bolton and Barker, With the Makers of Texas.

alcalde were annually elected by the Indians and these Indian officials then held authority in the Mission Pueblo for one year. But the story of the foundation and conduct of this large school under the name of Mission San Antonio de Valero, though very interesting, must be omitted from this résumé of the history of The Alamo. The Alamo ceased to be a school and Mission some years prior to or about 1783. Contagious diseases brought into the settlement by the Spanish soldiery wrought great havoc among the Indians at the Alamo about 1762 or '63, and greatly depleted their numbers. In fact, it might be said that the establishment as a school ceased to exist then as there were so few Indians left. There were scarcely no tractable Indians about the vicinity to refill the school and Mission, and those brought in were taken to the Mission below, and thus gradually, by reason of the Mission Indians and their children becoming civilized and incorporated with the rest of the population** in habits and manners, although still continuing to inhabit the Mission Pueblo, this last changed its character and became an ordinary village or pueblo. A com-

**F. Giraud, Yoakum's History of Texas.

pany of troops, sent out to protect the school and pueblo, took refuge within the walls from the incursions of the dreaded Comanches and other wild tribes, and eventually when this walled establishment was no longer needed as school and Mission the military took possession of some of the buildings of Mission San Antonio de Valero and became a fixture. The troops from the Alamo de Parras, referred to in the archives of San Antonio de Bexar as, "The ancient company," were quartered in Mission San Antonio de Valero so long that in time the Mission-fortress lost its official and original name and become colloquially, to the people about "The Alamo." It was the scene of many early conflicts. In 1813, when Governor Salcedo surrendered to the Republican army of the North, the Americans marched into the Alamo Fort and took possession of it, together with all the army stores, the arms, the military chest, etc., liberating seventeen of their countrymen found there and adding them to their ranks. Thus, all along the line, we find "The Alamo" in use as a stronghold during the numerous revolutions and counter revolutions which shook this part of New Spain. But the story of The Alamo in which Texans, Americans, and all lovers of glorious deeds are most interested, is the story of the Siege and Fall of The Alamo, March 6, 1836.

When the Texans occupied The Alamo in

1836, the Fort was in the same state for defense in which it had been left by the Mexican general, Cos, when he surrendered to the brave men who took San Antonio under Ben Milam, Dec. 1835, but in the opinion of J. C. Neill, Lt.-Col. Commanding,* many repairs and improvements were needed, and it seems that Green B. Jameson was placed in charge of such work. Jameson went to work at once planning for the better fortification of The Alamo and soon was erecting new batteries and planting cannon. On January 6, Neill states that they had about twenty-four pieces of artillery, but "two distinct fortresses to garrison." They decided later that it was impossible to garrison both properly and to abandon the fortifications in the town and move all the guns to The Alamo.

The Church in the Alamo Fort was a ruin, and was still filled with debris from its two towers, dome, and arched roof, which fell in previous to, or in 1762.** It had never been repaired or rebuilt owing to a dreadful scourge which carried off nearly all the Indians belonging to the pueblo just after

*John Henry Brown.

**"The Church of this Mission was finished, even to the towers and the sacristy, but, on account of the stupidity of the builder, it tumbled down." See Documentos Para la Historia de la Provincia de Texas, (MS.) Mexican Archives, Bolton and Barker, With the Makers of Texas, p. 63.

the restoration was begun. The rooms on the north side of the Church and the west tower rooms retained the arched roof, and were therefore free of débris, and the only part of the Church edifice that was free of débris. The main building of the Fort was the long two-story building on the east side of the large Plaza area described in the old manuscript* as a two-story stone building about "fifty yards square, with arcaded galleries above and below." It had many doors opening out upon the Plaza or main area; and for the defense of the building, these doors had within a semi-circular parapet for the use of marksmen, composed of a double curtain of hides, upheld by stakes and filled in with rammed earth. Most of the rooms were also loop-holed. This long building was the most securely fortified of any within the Fortress and in the upper story, on the south end, was the hospital of the Fort.** Potter and other historians give fourteen as the number of guns used. Mrs. Dickinson says there were eighteen, while Santa Anna placed the number at twenty-one. But as Potter states, "The number has little bearing on the merits of the final defense with which cannon had little to do. These guns

*Documentos para la Historia de la Provincia de Texas, Bolton and Barker With the Makers of Texas.

**See Brown's History of Texas, page 576, and Potter, Bancroft, Baker and others.

were in the hands of men unskilled in their use, and owing to the construction of the works most of them had little width of range." Potter places the guns as follows:

(1) One, a twelve-pounder was mounted on a high platform of earth formed by the fallen dome and roof of the Church, and pointed east through an embrasure roughly notched in the wall; another, (2) was aimed north through a similar notch; and another, (3) was fired over the wall to the south, but all on the same platform. The powder magazines, and the women and children, were in the covered rooms of the Church, the rooms on the north and west left intact when the roof fell in. To protect the women and children and magazines and prevent entrance in that quarter, was the mission of these three guns. Marksmen were also stationed around the roofless Church on the platforms of earth (and wooden scaffolds where necessary,) that they might fire over the roofless walls, using them as parapets.

"Between the Church and the gate of The Alamo was a battery of four guns, (4, 5, 6, 7,) all four-pounders, pointing south. The porte-cochère, (the gate of the Alamo through the low barrack, was covered on the outside by a lunette of stockades and earth, and mounted with two guns (8, 9). In the southwest angle of the large area was an eighteen-pounder, (10,) in the center of the west wall was a twelve-pound

carronade, (11) and in the northwest corner of the same area an eight-pounder, (12) and east of this within the north wall, two more guns of the same caliber (13, 14). All the guns of this area were mounted on high platforms of stockades and earth and fired over the walls.* The several barriers were covered on the outside by a ditch, except where such guard was afforded by the irrigating canal, which flowed on the east and west sides of the Fort, and through it, and served to fill the fosse with water.

The Texans knew that Santa Anna was advancing with a large force and Neill,** Travis, Bowie and all plead for reinforcements, but for some reason did not believe

*Of the four guns mentioned by Mrs. Dickinson and others, one, a small gun, was placed in the small tower room over the hospital, in the south end of (the main building of the Fort) and did fine work in mowing down the enemy as they swarmed into the large area; three cannons were placed in the west wall of the Fort, near its north corner; by still others, two were placed on a platform near the southern end of the Plaza of the Fort. These platforms on which the cannons were planted were composed of stakes on end with rocks and dirt between.

** Except Neill. On January 14, 1836, Lt.-Col. J. C. Neill asked for re-enforcements and said: "I hope we will be reinforced in eight days, or we will be over-run by the enemy, but if I have only 100 men, I will fight 1000 as long as I can and then not surrender."

that it was possible for him to reach San Antonio before the middle of March and hoped and expected by that time, to be fully prepared to meet him. It was therefore something of a surprise when it was found that a Mexican Army was near at hand, and scouts were sent out to reconnoiter. It was found to be only too true that a large army was upon them. The sentinels, posted on the roof of the Church of San Fernando reported sight of an army, before the return of the scouts. Travis ordered all into the Alamo Fortress and all was done that was possible, at the time, in preparation for defense. A large division of Santa Anna's army arrived soon after, and the Alamo was surrounded and the siege begun. Travis sent out messengers for assistance before the enemy arrived and again before the place was invested, and we know how the thirty-two heroes from Gonzales answered the call March 1st, and gave to Texans a sublime example of self-sacrifice. The noble Bonham, a friend of Travis', determined to stand by his friend and the men of the Alamo, returns March 3rd, signals the Fort, and dashes in through the Mexican lines on his snow white steed. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he giveth his life for a friend." He failed in finding helpers, but determined that Travis should not fail for the use of his strong, right arm and courageous heart,

and that he would win or die with him. And so, through the whole roll call of the Alamo heroes, each did his duty and stood at his post, hungry,—because there was no time for eating, and cold, and wearied out with long watching and firing. At last Santa Anna determines on the final assault and calls a council of war and the dawn of the 6th is the time chosen. The night of the 5th is the first respite the weary garrison has had from the continual din of cannon and arms and they seek the needed rest as the Mexican troops cease firing. We can imagine the feelings which prompt them as each tries to do that which he thinks should be done first. And then to rest—but this rest is not for long. At a given signal the three columns of the Mexican army move simultaneously on The Alamo, provided with axes, scaling ladders and fascines. The assault is begun! Again the cannons boom! Every Texan is at his post, and, as the enemy show themselves above the wall, they are mowed down by the shots of the unerring Texans. Three times they waver and retreat but are driven forward by their own cavalry. At last, one column gains an entrance through a breach on the north, another then scaled the high wall on the west, and the third repulsed on the south at the Church, also scaled the western wall. It was impossible for the few men of the Alamo to defend the outer walls

long,* and the most of them soon retreated into the long two-story stone building which was well fortified, “and it was not till then, when they became more concentrated and covered within that the main struggle began. They were more concentrated as to space, not as to unity of command; for there was no communicating between buildings, nor in all cases between rooms. There was little need of command, however, to men who had no choice left but to fall where they stood before the weight of numbers. There was no retreating from point to point, and each group of defenders had to fight and die in the den where it was brought to bay.”** From the doors, windows and loop-holes of the several rooms of the main building, the crack of the rifle and the hiss of the bullet came fierce and fast; as fast the enemy fell and recoiled in his first efforts to charge. “The gun beside which Travis fell was now turned against this building, as were also some others, and shot after shot was sent crashing through

*On Page 577, Vol. I., John H. Brown's History of Texas recites: “The truth was, these extensive barriers formed in reality nothing more than the outworks, speedily lost, while the buildings within constituted the CITADEL AND SCENE of sternest resistance.” This is a quotation from Captain Reuben M. Potter, U. S. A., who was a resident of Matamoros at the time of the Fall of the Alamo.

**Potter.

the galleries and doors and barricades of the several rooms. Each ball was followed by a storm of musketry and a charge; and thus room after room was carried at the point of the bayonet, when all within them died, fighting to the last. "The struggle was made up of a number of separate and desperate combats, often hand to hand, between squads of the garrison and bodies of the enemy. *The bloodiest spot about the Fort was the long barrack and the ground in front of it, where the enemy fell in heaps.*"* A Mexican soldier gave his testimony as follows: "The Texans fought like tigers. The proportion was one to one-hundred, yet no quarter was asked and each sold his life as dearly as possible. The last moments of the conflict were terrible. The darkness of the rooms, the smoke of the battle and the shrieks of the wounded and dying all added to the terror of the scene. Unable to distinguish friend from foe, the Mexicans actually brained each other in their mad fury. After the battle was over and all were dead, the scene beggared description. The floor of the main building was nearly shoe deep in blood, and weltering there were hundreds of dead men, many still clenched together with one hand while the other hand held the sword, pistol or

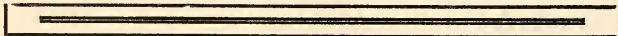
*Potter. This "long barrack" is the old two-story stone building called by the syndicate the "eye-sore," the "Hugo-Schmeltzer" building.

knife which told how they had died in that last terrible struggle. And thus, the curtain went down in darkness and blood on the saddest and sublimest event in the world's history."

Mrs. Dickinson, wife of Lieut. Dickinson, who was killed in the defense of the Alamo, Mrs. Alsbury, wife of Dr. Alsbury, with their children, and several other women and children who had been all during the time of the battle in the north rooms of the Church, were permitted to leave. Mrs. Dickinson and babe were sent on horseback to the Texans at Gonzales, and was soon joined by Travis' negro servant who had escaped the guard. The other women were cared for by their relatives in San Antonio and vicinity. Mrs. Dickinson tells how Evans, (Master of Ordnance, who had been instructed to fire the magazines when all was over,) was followed and killed by the Mexicans as he jumped down from the débris and attempted to enter the room where she was, in a north room of the Church, with a torch to carry out his instructions. She also speaks of another gunner named Walker, who was killed in her presence as he was running for the magazine. None of the women or children were injured during the seige as they were not in the part of the Fort where the battle waged. The women and children saw none of the battle, as there were only the gunners and a

few sharpshooters stationed on the roofless walls of the ruined church to protect the magazines and entrance in that direction, for the main conflict raged in the main building of the Fort, the two-story stone building northwest and adjoining the Church and it was impossible for the women to either see or hear anything except the crack of the rifle, the shrieks of the men and the booming of the cannon. The women have only been able to tell of the few who were killed in that part of the Alamo. "Thermopylae had her messenger of defeat, but the Alamo had none." The bodies of the dead heroes were ordered by Santa Anna to be piled in heaps and burned and this order was in part executed in the court yard or patio of the main Alamo building, north of the Church. The others were burned in three piles to the south and southeast. The following year a band of patriots gathered up the ashes and the charred remains and buried them with military honors. No one knows the exact spot, though many have pointed out where they think it is; but the old building in which they gave up their lives still stands, and the ancient court yard in which some were burned and where the blood of heroes is mingled with the soil, still exists

sacred to Texans and all patriotic people. The greatest heritage of the children of Texas and America is the noble example of its great men and heroes. Let us not forget their deathless deeds, for the moment we begin to ignore these sublime virtues exemplified by the noble souls of our race, our degeneration has begun. Let us save our landmarks and sacred battlefields and buildings as reminders and monuments. No monument that could be erected by the hands of man to the memory of the heroes could be as great or as sacred as the Alamo itself wherein we are brought face to face with the history and scenes from the lives of the men who rendered the Alamo immortal. Only two of the buildings of the Alamo still stand, the Alamo proper, where the heroes died and piled the enemy before them in heaps, where the floor was shoe deep in the blood of friend and foe; and the old Church, then a ruin, whose north rooms sheltered the women and children and magazines, and which was defended by a few gunners and sharpshooters. If you love and appreciate the noble and sublime do all you can to save these two old buildings and the old court yard,—all that are left to remind us of the sublime sacrifice of the men of the Alamo.



The De Zavala Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, pioneers in the work of saving the relics, manuscripts, books and historic places of early Texas, conceived the idea of saving the main building of the Alamo Fortress and re-consecrating it to the memory of the Heroes of the Alamo to be used as a Texas Hall of Fame and a Museum of History, Relics, Art, and Literature, to be forever free for the use of Texans and all within the borders of Texas. An option was obtained on the Alamo property by De Zavala Chapter, and work undertaken to raise the money for its purchase.

The raising of the money seemed sure, as all the people of Texas approached, were enthusiastic and willing to contribute to save the building; but as a certain fixed sum was necessary on certain dates to meet the payments, De Zavala Chapter, decided to ask the Legislature to appropriate the money for the balance due, and offered on their part to give clear title to the property and the twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) already paid in as part payment, and to take charge of the buildings and maintain them in good order and repair without cost to the State, and to repair and restore to

its former beauty the old "long barrack" or Fortress building proper of the Alamo, where the heroes died, on the condition that the old main building of the Alamo, "the long barrack" should be used as a Hall of Fame and a Museum of History, Relics, Art and Literature, devoted to the memory of the heroes of Texas, and that the care and custody should remain with the Association, and that it should be repaired only under its direction.

The President of De Zavala Chapter wrote or dictated both memorial and bill presented to the Legislature asking that the property be given into the custody of the Association. The Twenty-ninth Legislature granted the request of De Zavala Chapter, so unanimously endorsed by the people of Texas, and the property was eventually turned over to the De Zavala Chapter. Here the Hotel Syndicate stepped in and by its machinations, for the destruction of The Alamo proper caused both the ancient Fortress Building and Church to be snatched from the devoted hands of De Zavala Chapter; and since 1905, the property has been shamefully neglected and put to disgraceful use for these "business interests." A set of men have been trying at each succeeding

Legislature to have this main Alamo building torn down in order to put their property to the front and benefit themselves by enhancing the value of their own property.

The people of San Antonio had always looked upon the old Fortified Alamo Building as public property as Honoré Grenet the owner had publicly announced his intention of devoting it to the memory of the heroes of Texas, by gift to the people of San Antonio and Texas, and in fact, part of the old building was long used as a Museum. The sudden death of Mr. Grenet, before title to the property was executed to the public, deprived the people of this benefaction.

Mr. Grenet built wooden galleries around the two-story stone building (which latter had been comparatively little damaged in 1836,) to represent the former arcaded galleries of stone, and erected two towers, bristling with wooden cannons, and a battlemented top of wood over the old stone fortress building, and painted the words, "The Alamo Building," on the west and south sides. He thus, as he said, restored the outer appearance of the main building

of the Alamo (as closely as he could at the time) in an endeavor to keep fresh in the minds of the people of Texas the memory of the heroic deeds enacted therein.

De Zavala Chapter secured the option on this property, paid twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) of the purchase price, and then gave title to the State of Texas on the conditions above enumerated.

The president of De Zavala Chapter wrote the Memorial and Bill presented to the Legislature.

Will Texas remember The Alamo and keep faith with the ladies of the De Zavala Chapter, of San Antonio, who saved the Alamo, 1903-1905?

Send in your protests and appeals, at once, to the Governor of Texas, and to your Senators and other Representatives in the Texas Legislature asking them to save this old Alamo building.

This Résumé of the Story of the Siege and Fall of the Alamo may be obtained from the Author, 141 Taylor St., San Antonio, Texas, and from the book stores.

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THE ALAMO.

(John P. Sjolander)

Oh, say, have you heard what the Huns propose?

Do away with the Alamo.

In the guise of friends they outdo the foes

That stormed it long years ago.

With a smirk and smile, and a bag of gold,

They would give us something as good;

They would raze to the ground what our patriots
bold

Built up with their hearts' red blood.

Oh, they plead the cause of a vandal race,

That is ruled by the god of Greed.

They would do away with our holiest place,

And undo the loftiest deed.

And the shame of it is that they come in guise

Of friend when they are our foe;

But the women and men of Texas will rise

In defense of the Alamo.

Yes, down with the Huns who have shamelessly
breathed

Such a vile and infamous thought.

There was never a grander gift bequeathed

Than the gift that our martyrs brought.

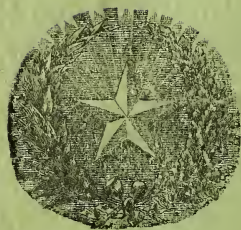
And it shall not be said that for silver and gold,

To a heartless and vandal foe,

The people of Texas once bargained and sold

One stone of the Alamo.

Cedar Bayou, Tex.



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